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LOCAL MEETINGS AND OTHER NOTICES.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY, 1898.—The annual meeting will take place in New York, at Columbia College, on Wednesday and Thursday, December 28 and 29. Further information will be furnished hereafter. Members intending to present papers will please send the titles to the Permanent Secretary.

BALTIMORE.—The following report gives an account of the proceedings of this local society during the past year.

November 11, 1897. The regular meeting of the Baltimore Folk-Lore Society was held by invitation in the Friends' Meeting-house, Park Avenue and Laurens Street, the President, Dr. Henry Wood, presiding. An interesting report was made on work undertaken by the society; that of making a collection of folk-lore from the state, both through the public schools and through affiliated societies. A society was reported as having been already established in Annapolis. A paper was read by Mrs. Albert Leakin Sious-sat on "Satanic Possession in Plantation Life." It was largely devoted to personal recollections and experiences. Miss Mary Speers gave a valuable paper on a collection of folk-lore material she had collected in Anne Arundel County, Md.

January 14, 1898. The meeting was held in the Donovan Room, McCoy Hall, which, through the courtesy of the Johns Hopkins University, has become the permanent home of the society. Dr. Henry M. Hurd read the first paper of the evening, which was written by Dr. George M. Gould, of Philadelphia, the title being "Child Fetiches." This paper has since been published in the "American Journal of Psychology." A paper was also presented by Miss Marion V. Dorsey, on "An Unwritten Legend of Sharp's Island."

February 25. At this meeting an interesting paper was read by Mrs. John C. Wrenshall, on "Some Present Day Charms and Spells." Mrs. Wrenshall dealt largely with the subject of warts and their cures, as they have come under her personal notice. A paper by Mrs. Fanny D. Bergen, of Cambridge, on "Personal Experiences of a Collector of Folk-Lore," was then presented and read; also a third paper contributed by Mr. H. H. Bowen, on "The White Mule of the Marshes," being a tale of Dorchester County.

March 25. A paper was presented at this meeting by Dr. Paul Haupt on "Tattooing among the Semites." This communication has subsequently been read at the meeting of the American Oriental Society in New Haven. A paper was also presented by Professor M. C. Sutphen on "Bits of Ancient Magic." Both of these papers aroused interesting discussions.

April 22. At this meeting the annual election of officers took place, and the following were elected to serve for the year 1898-1899: President, Dr. Henry Wood; vice-president, Mrs. John C. Wrenshall; secretary, Miss Annie Weston Whitney; treasurer, Dr. Henry M. Hurd; council, Dr.

Maurice Bloomfield, Dr. Kirby Smith, Dr. C. C. Marden, Mrs. Waller Bullock, Mrs. John D. Early, Miss Mary Worthington Milnor, Miss Mary Willis Minor. The business being over, a paper was read by Mr. Percy Reese that was written by Mr. Adolph Roeder, on "Eliminations in Folk-Lore Symbolism."

May 27. Dr. Hurd presented a most interesting paper on "Tattooing." He also gave a talk on "Maryland Farm Names," giving the names of some that had come under his notice and clearly suggested a folk-lore background. Additions were made to the list by members present. Miss Mary Speers gave some interesting "Maryland Variants of Folk-Tales."

An interesting feature of the meetings is the "Question Box;" into which are put odd bits of folk-lore, obscure references for future study, and any matter that might interest the society. These bits are filed away for future use or reference.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

BOOKS.

THE ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH POPULAR BALLADS. Edited by FRANCIS JAMES CHILD. (Part x.) Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Pp. 283-569.

The great work of Professor Child reaches its conclusion with this part, forming the second half of the fifth volume. The part is devoted to supplementary matter, including "Additions and Corrections," "Glossary," "Sources of the Texts," "Index of Ballad Titles," and "Bibliography." An interesting feature is a collection of hitherto unprinted melodies. Among the additions of especial interest are ballads obtained in North Carolina, by Mrs. E. M. Backus. One of these, "The Wife of Usher's Well," No. 79, is a very beautiful example of the preservation of a mediæval ballad. A version of No. 2, "The Elfin Knight," has been printed in this *Journal*, vol. vii. p. 228.

The editing of the part, a laborious task performed with minute care and wide learning, has devolved upon Professor G. L. Kittredge, who has added a biographical sketch of Professor Child.

The task which Professor Child had set himself consisted in a complete edition of English ballads, including every valuable copy of every known ballad. As the material can never be increased, this edition must forever remain a monument of the industry, sagacity, and learning of its author. As necessary to the elucidation and comprehension of the songs, all other ballad literature has been drawn on for illustration, the brief prefaces to the ballads constituting models of comparative research.

It had been the intention of Professor Child to introduce into this concluding part a brief general introduction, treating important questions of theory, relating to the periods, sources, and manner of composition of the ballads; but this study remained unexecuted and he left no notes sufficient to indicate his opinions. This theoretical examination, which in his mind